DIXIE COVE MARINE PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

March 2003

Approved by:

Date: March 25/03

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Date:

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DIXIE COVE MARINE PROVINCIAL PARK
Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role
The **primary** role of Dixie Cove Marine Park is to provide a strategic anchorage in the Kyuquot Sound area off the west coast of Vancouver Island. Located on Hohoae Island, the park has two of the best all-weather anchorages in the area. From these strategic overnight anchorages, it is possible for boaters and kayakers to explore nearby Rugged Point Marine Park and the rest of Kyuquot Sound, including Brooks Peninsula and Big Bunsby parks. As it is a scenic stopping point for those who are exploring the west side of Vancouver Island by boat, it serves to meet the travel corridor system goal for the Protected Area Strategy.

Secondary Role
The **secondary** role is to protect the natural values associated with the temperate rainforest on the west coast of Vancouver Island. Much of this type of forest has been developed through forestry and is no longer in its natural state. By protecting the coastal fringe, the park protects old growth forest of sitka spruce and Douglas fir, and coastal habitat for marine life such as salmon and geoducks and wildlife such as sea otters, migrant gray whales, diving ducks, seabirds, shorebirds, and bald eagles.

Management Issues

Known Management Issue	Response
Lack of knowledge about natural and cultural values	➢ Inventory ecological values to better understand upland and marine values. ➢ Undertake a cultural inventory and traditional use study in conjunction with First Nations.
Impact of adjacent activities such as woodlot development and aquaculture	➢ Liaise with forest companies and Ministry of Forests to ensure that adjacent forest development does not impact park values, especially visual resources. ➢ Inform aquaculture companies of concerns, and encourage moving fish farms away from the park boundary.
Impacts on water quality in anchorage by boat sewage	➢ Work with DFO to establish a no dumping regulation. ➢ Develop and implement a water quality monitoring program if resources allow. ➢ Increase public awareness through signage and website about impacts of dumping.
Lack of park awareness	➢ Install boundary signage. ➢ Enhance interpretation information on website.

Zoning

Natural Environment Zone – covers the entire park in recognition of the natural and recreational values. The objective of this zone is to protect scenic values and to provide recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

Conservation

Representation - ecosection	☒	Dixie Cove Marine Park contributes very minimally (0.05%) to the Windward Island Mountains Ecosection (WIM), which is well represented in the protected areas system at 17.4%. It makes a very minimal contribution (0.06%) to the Vancouver Island Shelf *Marine* Ecosection (VIS), which is under protected at 5.4%.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	☒	Minimal contribution (0.12%) to CWHvh1, which is well represented at 19.3%
Special Features	☒	Old growth rainforest, 3 bald eagle nests, gray whale and sea otter habitat
Rare/Endangered Values	☒	Red-listed sea otter, blue-listed gray whale.
Scientific/Research Opportunities	☒	None known at this time

Recreation

Representation		
backcountry	☐	Not Applicable
destination	☒	Most protected anchorage in Kyuquot Sound
travel corridor	☒	Kayaking / boating route nearby
local recreation	☐	Not Applicable
Special Opportunities	☐	None known at this time
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	☐	None known at this time

Cultural Heritage

Representation	☐	Values unknown
Special Feature	☐	None known at this time

Other Management Considerations

Other Designations	☐	Not Applicable
Relationship to other PAs	☒	Part of a system of marine protected areas on the outside coast of Vancouver Island
Co-operative Management Arrangements	☐	Not Applicable
Partnerships	☐	Not Applicable

Vulnerability	☒	Water quality is vulnerable to boat sewage. Marine values are vulnerable to nearby commercial marine biota extraction and aquaculture.
Relationship to other Strategies	☒	Marine Protected Areas Strategy; recommended for designation by Vancouver Island Land Use Plan (Goal 2).

Area: 156 hectares (105 ha upland; 51 ha foreshore)

Date of establishment: April 30, 1996

Zoning Map - Dixie Cove Marine Park